

V - claims 49-63 and 81-83, drawn to a method of making a crosslinked adhesive composition;

VI - claims 64-80, drawn to a crosslinked adhesive composition; and

VII - claim 84, drawn to a transdermal product.

The Examiner contends that these alleged inventions are distinct because Inventions I, II, VI and VII are mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. The Examiner contends that distinctiveness is proven if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product, and the species are patentably distinct. The Examiner further contends that the intermediate product is deemed useful as a liquid bandage, and that the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing of record to show them to be obvious variants. The Examiner also contends that Inventions II, VI and VII are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship; that inventions VI and VII are related as mutually exclusive species in intermediate-final product relationship; and furthermore, that Inventions I and III, and II and IV, respectively, are related as processes of making end product. Finally, Inventions V and VI are said to be related as processes of making and product made.

While applicants traverse this restriction requirement, as is nevertheless required, applicants also provisionally elect Invention VI; namely, claims 64-80 drawn to a cross-linked adhesive composition. Applicants request, however, that the Examiner at least also include Invention V, claims 49-63 and 81-83, in connection with this elected invention for prosecution in this application. These claims are drawn to a method of making the same cross-linked adhesive composition which is the subject of claims 64-80. It is therefore submitted that, other than being directed to a method and composition, in

many respects the claims are of the same scope, and at the very least a single search will clearly suffice for all of these claims. The method of claim 49, for example, produces the exact same composition which is the subject of claim 64.

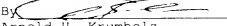
In view of the desirability of expediting the prosecution of U.S. patent applications in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and the fact that a single search will clearly suffice for both of these alleged inventions, applicants again respectfully request that these claims all be examined in this application.

In any event, if for any reason the Examiner does not believe that prosecution on the merits can proceed at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have to doing so at this time.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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